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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BOOKS.

A GRATIFYING illustration of the widespread interest in everything pertaining to Folk-lore is to be found in the generous space allotted to this branch of study in the new edition of Chambers' Encyclopædia. Besides biographies of the prominent folk-lore scholars of all countries, two noteworthy articles on Ballads and Folk-lore have thus far appeared, both from the pen of Mr. Thomas Davidson. These articles are models of treatment at once scientific and popular, and may be consulted with profit by scholars as well as by the general reader. In the article on Ballads, the fact is brought out that ballads stand on the same basis as folk-tales as to contents and diffusion. It is probable, however, that with ballads conscious borrowing plays a more important part than with folk-tales. Of great interest, too, is the history of the revival of interest in the ballad in modern times. This was one of the most important results of the Romantic movement, and was not without influence on the study of folk-tales. An excellent bibliography contains the names of the standard collections in this department. To it should now be added Nigra's "*Canti popolari del Piemonte*," Turin, 1888, and the interesting reviews in the "*Journal des Savants*," Sept.-Nov., 1889, by G. Paris, "*Nuova Antologia*," 16 March, 1889, by A. D'Ancona, and "*Perseveranza*," Milan, 20 Jan., 1889, by P. Rajna, in which most of the questions connected with the origin and diffusion of folk-songs are elaborately discussed.

Of even greater extent and value is the article on Folk-lore (vol. iv. pp. 708-714), in which for the first time a survey is given of the entire field, and a history of its study. The second half of the nineteenth century will always be remarkable for the enormous number of books on this subject, and the great interest displayed by the foundation of societies in nearly every country in Europe with journals and other publications. Mr. Davidson gives a luminous sketch of the rise of these studies and their justification in their connection with general mythology and anthropology. The various theories of the origin of Folk-lore are set forth in an unbiased manner, and the writer's own belief in Mr. Lang's theory is forcibly expressed. No point is overlooked, and an enormous amount of information in regard to collections and methods of study is conveyed in an exact and methodical manner, and no better "primer" could be recommended to the beginner in folk-lore studies. Mr. Davidson has also contributed many other valuable articles in this same field to other volumes of the Encyclopædia, notably the articles, Fable, Beast-fables, Fairies, etc., in all of which the writer is entertaining as well as exact and scientific.

THE FABLES OF ÆSOP, as first printed by William Caxton in 1484 with those of Avian, Alfonso, and Poggio, now again edited and induced by JOSEPH JACOBS. I. History of the Æsopic Fable. II. Text and Glossary. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. xix., 283, 322. London: David Nutt. 1889. [Bibliothèque de Carabas.]